

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 3, 2004

LB 962

compromise between the various individuals and the various areas to come to a conclusion that everybody can live with. I have to tell you that we talked about the economic development of the water and its use. We attempted, at one time some time ago, to develop a ethanol plant in my area. I can tell you why we didn't do it. First of all, we didn't have the water and, secondly, without irrigation we weren't assured we'd have the corn. So the idea was dropped simply because it didn't appear to be feasible. What I'm trying to point out is that there are certainly different levels of interest in how it affects, how water affects, your livelihood and my livelihood, and these things are all drawn into this kind of a debate, and I guess there isn't a real clear-cut answer to any body's question, except we need to continue with the debate and somehow, like we do with most issues in this body, come to some semblance of agreement. Where that's going to happen and when that's going to happen I don't know, but I just felt that I needed to at least bring you my perspective of how we look at water from where I come from because we have such a limited amount. And I realize that that doesn't resolve the issue and doesn't make that much difference to people who have an abundance of water. You know, you could talk about it from the standpoint, well, you got more water, you ought to pay more. Is that fair? Well, I wouldn't probably think so, particularly those people that have more water. So it comes back to the issue that I started out with when I started the talk, is that what's fair to one may not be fair to somebody else, and basically that's what my message is about. With that, Mr. President, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Bourne, on FA1520 to FA1502.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. As I was listening to the exchange between Senator Mines and Senator Schrock, and I just want to point out that Senator Mines is not the only one concerned with the General Fund appropriation here. And I'll tell you that you look at the fiscal note on this bill, and I'm not saying that water management is not important, I'm simply saying here we sit, I said this the other day, with a three hundred and some million dollar deficit and this bill is \$4.7 million per year forever. Senator Beutler...and I'm not